



March 30, 2011

Via Electronic Filing

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St., S.W., TW-A325
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Notice of *Ex Parte* Communication
CC Docket No. 96-45, Federal-State Board on Universal Service; WC Docket No. 03-109,
Lifeline and Link-Up

Dear Ms. Dortch,

Pursuant to section 1.1206(b)(2) of the Commission's rules, we hereby submit this notice regarding an *ex parte* communication in the above-referenced proceeding.

On March 29, 2011, Charles Benton and Cecilia Garcia, executive staff of the Benton Foundation, met with Commissioner Michael Copps and Policy Advisor Margaret McCarthy to discuss Universal Service Fund (USF) reform.

Specifically, the discussion centered on the proposed pilot programs approach for modernizing the Lifeline Link-Up programs. The Benton Foundation believes that modernizing these USF programs must focus on usage, in addition to access for low-income communities. We support approaches that would include low-cost computer equipment purchase opportunities and digital literacy training as part of a comprehensive approach to adapting the Lifeline Link-Up programs to the needs of 21st century low-income residents.

In accordance with the Commission's rules this *ex parte* notice is being filed electronically in the above referenced docket. If you have questions regarding this filing please do not hesitate to contact me at 202-638-5770.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/Cecilia Garcia

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